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USA





Changing Climate

Global mean surface temperatures have increased 0.5-1.0°F since the late 19th century. The 20th century's 10 warmest years all occurred in the last 15 years of the century. Of these, 1998 was the warmest year on record. The snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere and floating ice in the Arctic Ocean have decreased. Globally, sea level has risen 4-8 inches over the past century. Worldwide precipitation over land has increased by about one percent. The frequency of extreme rainfall events has increased throughout much of the United States.



2.2-10°F (1.4-5.8°C) in the next century, with significant regional variation. Evaporation will increase as the climate warms, which will increase average global precipitation. Soil moisture is likely to decline in many regions, and intense rainstorms are likely to become more frequent. Sea level is likely to rise two feet along most of the U.S. coast.

Calculations of climate change for specific areas are much less reliable than global ones, and it is unclear whether regional climate will become more variable.

































Emissions also vary based on the state you live in. Several factors can affect the emissions per person in a state, for example, the types of fuel used to generate electricity, population and vehicle miles traveled (people tend to drive longer distances in sparsely populated areas), and whether fossil fuels are extracted or processed within the state. You will find additional information concerning emissions in your state in the <u>State Emissions</u> section.

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Should SOFIA fly?

We have been asking recently whether the likely scientific results from SOFIA are worth the cost.

About \$500M have been spent so far on SOFIA.

It will take about \$300M more to get to full operation.

And it will cost about \$80M per year for the planned flight capability.

This will add up to about \$2.4B over 20 years.

Is it worth it? I don't know.

There is no guarantee we would use it for something more worthwhile.

But since I care more about life on Earth than I do about money, I am more concerned about SOFIA's impact on the Earth.















